

Message Text

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SUBJECT: WEST BANK PRESS IN AFTERMATH OF BEGIN'S WASHINGTON VISIT

SUMMARY: WEST BANK PRESS OF PAST SEVERAL DAYS FEATURES COVERAGE OF WEIZMAN TRIP TO CAIRO AND HIS REPORT TO BEGIN UPON RETURN. PEACE DEMONSTRATION IN TEL AVIV RECEIVES WIDE PRESS COVERAGE WITH AL QUDS (MODERATE) INTERPRETING THE IDF RESERVISTS AS "ISRAELI SILENT MAJORITY." PRESIDENT CARTER'S TRIP GIVEN STRAIGHT NEWS COVERING IN AL QUDS. OTHER EDITORIALS COMMENT ON U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONS AND ARAB ATTITUDES TOWARD PALESTINIANS LIVING UNDER ISRAELI OCCUPATION. AL QUDS FEATURES U.S. POLICY STATEMENTS.

1. SIGNIFICANT FRONT PAGE COVERAGE GIVEN BY AL QUDS APRIL 1 TO U.S. POLICY ON PEACE PROCESS AS ENUNCIATED BY "AMERICAN OFFICIAL IN WASHINGTON" BASED ON INTERVIEW BY ISRAELI CORRESPONDENT FROM WASHINGTON. STORY GAVE STRAIGHT-FORWARD OUTLINE U.S. POSITION IN CURRENT MID-EAST PEACE PROCESS WITH EMPHASIS ON NEED FOR INCLUDING PALESTINIANS IN DETERMINATION THEIR FUTURE.

2. IN EDITORIALS: PRO-PLO AL FAJR DISCOUNTS "SO-CALLED ISRAELI-
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AMERICAN DIFFERENCES" AND PREDICTS ANY INTERNAL POLITICAL CHANGES IN ISRAEL WOULD BE FOR ITSELF ONLY. ASH-SHA'AB (INDEPENDENT, PALESTINIAN NATIONALIST) CONDEMNS "AMERICAN-LOVING ARABS" WHO "THROW THEMSELVES INTO AMERICA'S BOSOM...TO KEEP THEIR TOTTERING THRONES."

3. AL QUDS (APRIL 2) SEES ISRAEL ENTERING INTO A PERIOD OF "SECRET

NEGOTIATIONS" WHERE "ISRAELI LEADERS WHO LOVE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THEIR OWN SAKE FOOL PEOPLE INTO BELIEVING EVERYTHING IS MOVING, ALBEIT SLOWLY, TOWARD PEACE." IN APRIL 3 COMMENTARY ON "ISRAEL'S SILENT MAJORITY" AL QUDS BELIEVES (ISRAELI) "MAN IN THE STREET QUESTIONS BEGIN'S INTRANSIGENT POLICIES AND THE BURDENS IT BRINGS...DESPITE WARNINGS BEGIN PERSISTS IN CONSIDERING HIS SELF-RULE PLAN AND ITS IMPLICIT ANNEXATION OF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA...THE PEACE DEMONSTRATION IS A WARNING--NOT THE FIRST NOR THE LAST."

4. PRO-PLO AL FAJR READS CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE INTO THE PLO ROLE IN THE UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT IN SOUTHERN LEBANON AS "AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE ITS POLITICAL STRENGTH WITH POTENTIAL AND ABILITY TO INFLUENCE TRENDS IN THE AREA.." FROM THIS THE PAPER CONCLUDES "THE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION IN REALIZING HER RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY LOOKS TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, PERHAPS FOR THE LAST TIME, TO FIND OUT WHAT IT CAN DO FOR HER.

A SERIOUS TEST OF THE UN AND THE GREAT POWERS."

5. IN FOCUSING ON THE UNIQUE SITUATION OF PALESTINIANS LIVING IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AL QUDS (APRIL 1) CASTIGATES CAVALIER ARABS AND THEIR LEADERS WHO "DO NOT WISH TO KNOW SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES BECAUSE ARAB COUNTRIES ARE OCCUPIED WITH THEIR OWN DISAGREEMENTS." THE WRITER CHARGES "...ARAB DISAGREEMENTS ARE MORE DANGEROUS TO US THAN OCCUPATION ITSELF." COMMENT: THIS SECOND INSTANCE SINCE ISRAELI INVASION OF SOUTHERN LEBANON
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WHERE AL QUDS HAS DRAWN BEAD ON THOSE ARABS WHO FAIL TO COME THROUGH WHILE VERBALIZING SUPPORT. THIS COMMENTARY, BASED ON COMMENTS BY NABLUS MAYOR SHAKA UPON RETURN FROM VISIT TO ARAB STATES, FIRST EDITORIAL TO SEPARATE AS UNIQUE WEST BANK AND GAZA PALESTINIANS FROM NATION AS A WHOLE.
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